

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 131267

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE THRUST OF THE DISCUSSION OF FAHMY AT BREAKFAST WITH KOPPEL WHICH I MENTIONED TO YOU ON THE WAY TO ROME IS BEGINNING TO SEEP INTO THE PRESS -- IDENTIFIED AS AN EGYPTIAN VIEW -- IN WAYS THAT COULD PROVE TO HAVE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THIS SEEPAGE IS PARTICULARLY WORRISOME BECAUSE IT IS TAKING PLACE AT PRECISELY THE SAME TIME THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE PUSHING THE SAME LINE, KNOWING THAT IT IS THE BEST METHOD FOR CAUSING A LONG DELAY IN ANY PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION.

2. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO FEATURE THE PRESIDENT IN COMMENTS ON THE SALZBURG MEETING, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOE RECOGNIZE THAT IF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IS TO BE PUT BACK TOGETHER IN A MEANINGFUL WAY, IT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BY THOSE WHO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE ISSUES AND HAVE THE TIME TO DEVOTE TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THUS, IF THE GOE IS SERIOUS ABOUT A MEANINGFUL RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE

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NUANCES AND REALITIES AND PROCEED ACCORDINGLY. THEY SHOULD

STRENGTHEN, NOT WEAKEN, THE NEGOTIATOR. THE DANGERS OF

BEING OVERLY CLEVER ARE EXTREME. SHOULD THE GOE GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE METHODS AND PERSONALITIES THAT HAVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST, IT WILL ONLY SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO WANT DELAY, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES BUT ALSO HERE IN THE UNITED STATES IN CREATING THE FRAME-WORK THAT MAKES THE NEGOTIATIONS POSSIBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

3. YOU SHOULD SEE FAHMY URGENTLY AND MAKE THE POINTS OUTLINED ABOVE TO HIM. YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT PRESS REPORTS, IDENTIFIED AS COMING FROM EGYPTIAN SOURCES, HAVE ALREADY DONE SOME DAMAGE AND THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS LINE BE ABANDONED IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE REPORT TO ME ASAP IN THIS CHANNEL ON THE RESULTS OF YOUR CONVERSATION. KISSINGER

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